



## Media Advisory

Forth

5/22/2019

For Immediate Release

### **Senator Jeff Merkley Scheduled to Appear at the Go Forth Electric Showcase Friday, May 24, 11am – noon.**

Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley will be at the [Go Forth Electric Showcase](#) on Friday, May 24. Senator Merkley will tour TriMet's new electric bus and congratulate TriMet on their commitment to transition to a non-diesel fleet by 2040.

Senator Merkley will also discuss the [Zero-Emissions Vehicle Act](#), legislation to require that by 2030, 50 percent of new cars sold would be zero emission vehicles, and 100 percent by 2040. He will also discuss the [Community Health and Clean Transit Act](#), which would provide financing for transit authorities to purchase electric buses.

"I'm working to help TriMet and transit authorities across the country go electric sooner with my *Community Health and Clean Transit Act*. The bill would allow the federal government to provide a little up-front help to turn routine fleet turnover into a new opportunity to cut down on emissions and save money. It's common sense and will help build the foundation for a greener future." – **Oregon's U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley.**

Representatives from TriMet will be in attendance with one of the new electric buses on hand as an example of TriMet's advancement of electric vehicles and infrastructure. TriMet has received two federal grants with the support and help of Sen. Merkley through the Federal Transit Administrations' "low-no" program, which provides grants to transit districts for the purchase of buses that have few or no carbon emissions.

TriMet and Portland General Electric have partnered to accelerate the change to non-diesel buses. Under this partnership PGE is installing the charging infrastructure, which allows TriMet focus on bus purchases. PGE installed chargers for the first 10 battery electric buses under an arrangement authorized by the Oregon Public Utility Commission. PGE, with TriMet's support, has submitted a request to the PUC to extend the experimental agreement to a much larger investment in charging infrastructure to support hundreds of battery electric buses.

The [Go Forth Electric Showcase](#) at 901 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Portland is the country's first electric vehicle showcase offering test drives of a variety of makes and models, the latest charging station technology, and experts on hand to provide information and answer questions.



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[Forth](https://forthmobility.org/) is a mission-driven non-profit organization devoted to advancing electric, shared and smart mobility. <https://forthmobility.org/>

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